

LIBERTY

Published by the Libertarian Party of Colorado

February 2000

The next meeting of the board of directors will be held at 7:00 pm on Monday, February 14th at state party headquarters, 720 East 18th Ave in Denver.

Party members are welcome at the meeting. Please call Bette Rose for details:
303-639-5530.



FREE Youth at the State Capitol

FREE YOUTH MEET AT STATE CAPITOL

More than twenty young people met with state legislators at the capitol in Denver on January 10, 2000 to defend their Second Amendment right. As members of a new organization, Firearm Rights Endorsed through Education (FREE), they gathered with their parents and other interested adults to listen to guest speakers and to share their own thoughts about proposed gun-control legislation.

FREE, a broad coalition which includes a Pro Second Amendment group from Grand Junction, the Rocky Mountain Gun Owners, NRA members, and Libertarians from around the state, discussed the importance of the right to keep and bear arms. A few Libertarians from El Paso County – and their children – attended the event.

C. J. Hackett, 10 years old, unabashedly stated, "I think anyone who has training should be able to use a gun for protection at any age." In response to proposed legislation to raise the minimum age to purchase a handgun from 18 to 21, 13-year-old Sean Glidewell

explained, "I'm here because I want my rights intact by the time I reach 18 and I *don't* want them to keep creeping the age up."

These kids know more about the true meaning of the Second Amendment than most of our current legislators do. Is it any wonder that many of our constitutionally protected rights are constantly under attack?

KATZ TO RUN IN 6TH CD

Libertarian activist Adam Katz recently announced his intention to run for Congress in Colorado's sixth congressional district. Katz, a 32-year-old accountant who lives in Aurora, has been a member of the Libertarian Party of Colorado since March of 1998.

Born and raised in New York, Katz decided long ago that Colorado would someday be his home. After attending Bryant College in Rhode Island he spent three years working as an accountant, then enlisted in the Navy to become a Russian linguist.

"During my tenure in the Navy I realized our government is ineffective and is too far off the path of the Constitution," Adam declares. "I started reading about the Libertarian Party and its positions and realized that the Libertarian way is the only path to true freedom and peace.

"After reading the *Colorado Liberty's* recent call for candidates, I decided it's time to take a stand for what I believe in. So I've decided to run for the sixth congressional district seat currently occupied by Tom Tancredo.

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Notes from the Chair

Dear Friends of Liberty,

Last week I was cleaning out some old papers when I stumbled across the National Party's annual report for 1997. I had just received the latest annual report so I decided to compare the two. One of the things that jumped right out at me is how far our goals have advanced. In 1997, we were proud to have almost 70 media contacts per month. Now we are reporting half again as many with the expectation to double that number (to 140 monthly contacts) this year. Our actual interviews have almost doubled during the past two years, and the number of stations airing our stories has nearly TRIPLED.

What I found most interesting about the comparison is how, viewed from the inside, our progress has seemed slow and steady. Yet when you look at the yearly reports, it appears we are growing by leaps and bounds. Indeed, most of us would be ecstatic if our mutual funds were to record such growth. And this growth trend has been on an ever more quickly rising curve since 1990.

The big question is What do we do now? As a state political party, our role is to run candidates for office and to influence what those now in office do. Here in Colorado we're gearing up to do just that. And as always, you can help.

David Bryant has been putting together a legislative team to keep an eye on what our elected officials are doing. He now has twenty-five people on the team, five of whom are very active, but he needs more. Over 400 bills have already been presented this session, and we need to watch many of them closely. David has already organized the bills by topic so they will be easier to follow. Since this can be done from a home computer, it's a

task you can easily fit into your schedule. To join the team, just send an e-mail message to davidbryant@att.net.

Our second major priority is campaigns. Several people have announced that they intend to run, but we need more candidates. Did you know that just to cover the U.S. House seats (6), the Colorado Senate (18) and the Colorado House (65), we would need 89 candidates? Each candidate needs at least one staff worker. That amounts to over 180 people if you count our campaigns support team.

Our goal is to cover at least two-thirds of these races.

Can we make it happen? I believe we can. There are well over 3000 registered Libertarians in Colorado and another 200 to 300 dues-paying members who have registered with some other party. There are even more people who support our ideas. This is a huge pool of people – but we still can't reach our goal unless each one of us helps.

Do you remember Michele Bethke's note about salt water snow? *How cold is it now?*

Do you remember Sara Wilson's comment? *What have you done for freedom today?*

From now until the convention, we're going to concentrate on the legislature and on campaigns. If you can help write letters, watch the bills, create opportunities for candidates, be a candidate, be a campaign staff worker, or anything else to promote the cause of Liberty, please step forward. This is a fight for your freedom. No task is too insignificant, no donation too small to make a difference. Together we can make the year 2000 one to be proud of for a long, long time.

In Liberty,

Bette Rose Smith

"we ... can't reach our goal unless each one of us helps."

LIBERTY

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Katz from page 1

"I know this will be a difficult task, but I truly believe that if I can get the Libertarian message out there, I can win this election. The first thing I need is some help. I'm looking for a campaign manager to work side by side with me – but any help I can get will be greatly appreciated."

Katz is an avid history buff who reads about it as often as possible. He also enjoys racquetball and has been playing in tournaments for 11 years. In the summer he enjoys hiking in the Colorado high country.

Party members in Jefferson and Arapahoe counties who want to meet Adam and help organize his fledgling campaign are invited to call him at 303-696-7873; his e-mail address is adam.katz@att.net.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

by Lloyd Sweeny & Tom Goonan

Many of us have special skills that could be utilized for the purpose of promoting liberty in our lifetime, but we're reluctant to step forward for one reason or another. One reason for this reluctance is that experience tells us there will be a monetary commitment to go with the time commitment.

The LP of Colorado is willing to supply funding – and tools where necessary – to put at the disposal of persons with skills, time, and a workable plan for advancing liberty. For example, our candidates need photographs for brochures, and for distribution to the media. We now have a volunteer with professional equipment, photographic expertise, and time. The Libertarian Party will pay for the film and developing costs involved. This makes an important resource available to every Libertarian candidate at very low cost.

Think about it. What can you do that just needs financial support to be successful? Make a proposal, and we'll give you a full hearing. Don't delay. Do it today! Call Tom Goonan at 303-202-9069, or send e-mail to tgoonan@sprintmail.com.

LEGISLATURE GRINDING OUT HUNDREDS OF LAWS

by David Bryant — January 24, 2000

I think it was the German statesman Otto von Bismarck who said there are two things no one should ever see while they're still being made: sausage – and laws.

The general assembly of Colorado is hard at work once again. With over four hundred bills already in the hopper, special interests of every stripe are lobbying incessantly, each one intent on gaining his pound of flesh at the expense of everybody else. But this year is different. A small cadre of dedicated Libertarian activists are doing their best to keep up with the statute grinders, and to let you know what's going on *before* the final votes are tallied.

The Internet makes this possible. Within a few hours after the close of each legislative day the daily journals, the calendars, and the status reports for both the house and the senate have been posted to the general assembly's web site at http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/stateleg.html.

Anyone with a web browser and the free Adobe Acrobat reader can access this site to learn what the legislature is doing. To bring some semblance of order out of the confusion, the Libertarian Party's Legislative Watchdog Team has been formed. David Bryant has sorted the bills into nine different categories. Members of the team (there are about twenty-five names on the list so far) can then concentrate on those bills of particular interest to them. Ari Armstrong is accumulating reports from the team members at his web site

<http://www.co-freedom.com>

where, he hopes, more and more people will turn to learn why they should support (or oppose) particular bills.

One of the volunteers, Gaar Potter, has already sifted his way through the forty-three competing tax cut proposals introduced in the state house during the first two weeks of the session. In general these bills are too complex and too narrowly

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"special interests ... are lobbying incessantly, each one intent on gaining his pound of flesh at the expense of everybody else."

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COMMUNITY CORNER

EL PASO COUNTY

NEW WEBSITE COMMITTEE

The LPEP ExComm is embarking on a radio advertising campaign that will lead people to our website, www.LPEP.org.

Before we do this, we need to spruce up the website, so several LPEP members met early in January and formed a Website Committee. They came up with many excellent suggestions and are working feverishly to gather information to place on the site, to prepare position papers on the hot issues of the day, and lots of other great things. The changes and additions they came up with that night have already been posted by Webmistress Betsy Miller. Betsy has done a superb job of maintaining the site, responding almost immediately to all the updates we send her.

We have also decided to develop several different ads, each with a message tailored to a specific listening audience. For instance, we may place an ad denouncing Drug Prohibition on KILO FM. Or we may run a Pro Second Amendment ad during the Chuck Baker Show. Regardless of the issue we advertise, we will repeatedly mention www.LPEP.org. The idea is to get people to visit our website by cashing in on the hot topic of the day. Once they're at the website, they'll get a chance to see how we stand on other issues. We will also advertise the national LP's toll free number, 1-800-ELECT US, for people who are not online yet.

If you are interested in serving on the Website Committee, please contact Carol at 719-596-6799, or send e-mail to info@LPEP.org.

GRAND JUNCTION

LOTT TO SPEAK AT BANQUET

John Lott, the author of *More Guns, Less Crime* and renowned as an expert on the sociological effects of gun control legislation, will be the featured speaker at the

tenth annual awards banquet sponsored by the Pro Second Amendment Committee of Grand Junction on Saturday, March 11th.

The banquet will be held at the Country Inn, 718 Horizon Drive. The cocktail hour starts at 6:00 pm, followed by dinner at 7:00. Tickets for the event are priced at \$40 for an individual and \$55 per couple. For more information or to make your reservations contact the committee at PO Box 40191, Grand Junction 81504, or call 970-464-5177.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

LCJC TO HOST LP WEBSITE

Two topics were discussed at the Libertarian Community of Jefferson County (LCJC) meeting on January 6th.

1. The group agreed to assume the task of keeping the LP Colorado web site up to date. It is expected that the Board-sanctioned task of providing year-2000 candidates with web and brochure templates, as well as links to the LP Colorado web site, will also be a focus of the LCJC. This approach by the LCJC is an outgrowth of the general desire of its members to be active without personally running for office.
2. The group also discussed the possibility of creating an interactive math course for secondary school students. One approach might be to assemble a group of math whizzes, former teachers, and youngsters, to make such a course relevant as well as instructive. The course might be offered as a link within the LP Colorado page. If you would like to help, please let us know. Perhaps there is something else to tackle in addition to math.

At our next meeting, to be held on February 3rd (see Calendar, page 11), the topic of the day will be hosting an official caucus for the purpose of nominating

continued on page 5

Community from page 4

candidates for the November elections. We have one declared candidate, Adam Katz, for the sixth U.S. Congressional District. Those of you who live in Jeffco, including the Southside affiliate membership, should be thinking about either running yourself, or of finding someone who's willing to run.

The Libertarian Party of Colorado, with the active support of the LCJC, will promote several new candidate support initiatives this year. You will hear more about these in the coming months.

REPARTEE FROM THE INTERNET

"It is often easier for our children to obtain a gun than it is to find a good school." — Joycelyn Elders

"Maybe that's because guns are sold at a profit, while schools are provided by the government." — David Boaz

Legislature from page 3

drawn to deserve Libertarian support. Noteable exceptions include HB1021, which would cut Colorado's income tax rate from 4¾% to 4¼%; HB1103, which is similar, but would grant only half the relief by lowering the rate to 4½%; and HB1050, which would eliminate the state sales and use tax on telephone bills. All of these bills deserve support, since they would grant tax relief to almost everyone in Colorado. Mr. Potter is quick to point out that some of the other tax cut measures are also desirable.

In a recent e-mail message he said, "I commend the following bills as small steps in the right direction. I agree that it's not the government's place to pick winners and losers or to engineer society, but some of these bills are more broadly based than they seemed at first glance, and others address existing inequities."

Gaar recommends support for house bills 1177, 1193, 1198, and 1236, all of which provide tax relief for educational expenses; 1061 (sales tax exemption for food sold in restaurants) and 1064 (ditto for non-prescription drugs) because they would provide broad-based tax relief; and 1053, 1104, 1162, and 1171 because each would either provide a small tax cut

to a large number of people, or rectify some unfair provision of current tax law.

Team member Robert Miller, who with his wife Regina is involved in the business of providing day-care services, has been diligent in searching out the bills affecting that industry. "The independent business women of the Denver Day-care Association feel they are over-regulated and over-taxed, and their rights are being violated," he says. "They conducted a survey of the city and state inspectors' activities. In response, the city and state threatened never to allow submission of viewpoints, and warned them not to organize the 500 licensed in-home day-care providers."

Senate bills 19 and 27 would turn more of the day-care business over to the tender mercies of the public school system. Senate bills 22 and 51 would increase the number of intrusive and ineffective inspections of licensed day-care providers by regulatory agencies. House bills 1020 and 1029 are objectionable for similar reasons; and house bills 1019, 1030, and 1203, while offering targeted tax relief benefits, are much too complicated and far too stingy to win Robert's approval.

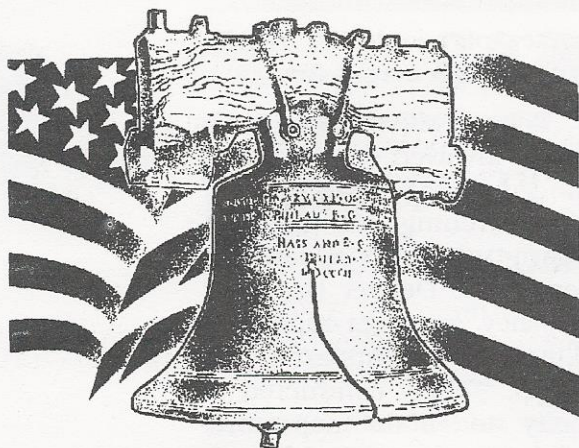
At least 17 bills relating to firearms have been introduced in the session to date. Many of these bills are up for committee hearings already, and are sure to provoke heated confrontations between gun owners and the victim disarmament crowd. For up to the minute coverage of the gun-control debate get on the Web and visit www.co-freedom.com.

Here are a few things you can do to push the general assembly in the right direction. If you have a home computer, log on to the web sites mentioned above. You can find names and phone numbers for your representatives there. If you're not sure how to do that, call state party headquarters at 303-837-9393 and our cheerful volunteers will help you. If you hear about a bill you like – or one you hate – pick up the phone and call your representatives. Even if you don't have a computer you can still make phone calls and send postcards.

It's up to you. If you raise your voice, the new laws passed this year will be better than they will be if you remain silent.

5

"HB1021 ... would cut Colorado's income tax rate from 4¾% to 4¼% and HB1050 ... would eliminate the state sales and use tax on telephone bills."



LIBERTARIAN CONVENTION

Join us for an
Exploration into the
Freedom Movement
at the close of the 20th Century

2000

Renaissance of Liberty

Friday, Saturday and Sunday April 14-15-16

Meet the
Libertarian Party's
Presidential Candidates for 2000

Harry Browne

Harry Browne was the 1996 Libertarian candidate for President of the United States. He has made appearances on CNN, the Larry King show, and other national and local radio & television shows. He is an investment advisor, the author of nine books, including *How I found Freedom in an Unfree World* and *Why Government Doesn't Work*.

Larry Hines

Larry Hines joined the United States Marine Corps in 1983. After completing his contract with the U.S. Marines with honors in 1987, he relocated to San Diego, California where he worked as a legal secretary in some of the most prestigious law firms in the country, gaining practical experience in business administration, law and politics.

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Gala Banquet Featuring David Boaz

David Boaz is a powerful and moving speaker. He is a leading authority on domestic issues like educational choice, drug legalization, the growth of government, and the rise of libertarianism and is a frequent guest on national television and radio shows. He is well known for his key role in the development of the Cato Institute and the libertarian movement. He is the author of *Libertarianism: A Primer*, and the editor of *The Libertarian Reader*.

Keynote by W. Earl Allen

Earl Allen promotes the libertarian philosophy through his elegant writing and speaking ability. He served as Publications Director and editor of the *Colorado Liberty* from 1996 through 1998. He also received the Advanced Toastmaster Bronze award from Toastmasters International in March of 1999.

He is an experienced candidate who ran strong campaigns for State Representative in both 1996 and 1998, catching the attention of the Republican Party. Earl currently serves as the Secretary of the Libertarian Party of Broomfield, Colorado.

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Mail to: Libertarian Convention 2000

720 East 18 Avenue, #309

Denver, CO 80203

303-837-9393

Remember, there is no charge for business meetings or candidate elections

EVENTS SCHEDULE

Friday April 15

7:00 PM --- *Early Registration & Suite Parties*

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Join us for an evening of drinks, light snacks and entertainment.

Saturday April 16

7:30 AM --- *Registration*

8:00 AM --- *Coffee Klatch*
Philosophy

9:00 AM --- *Seminar*
Philosophy

10:00 AM --- *Keynote Speaker*
Earl Allen

11:00 AM --- *Seminar*
Philosophy

12:00 PM --- *Awards Luncheon*
BetteRose Smith

1:00 PM --- *Seminar*
Philosophy

2:00 PM --- *Seminar*
Philosophy

3:00 PM --- *Seminar*
Philosophy

4:00 PM --- *Seminar*
Philosophy

6:00 PM --- *Cocktail Party*

7:00 PM --- *Banquet and Dance*
David Boaz

Coffee Klatch
Nuts & Bolts

Seminar
Nuts & Bolts

Business
Meet Local Candidates

Business
Board Reports

Business
Bylaw Changes

Seminar
Nuts & Bolts

Seminar
Nuts & Bolts

Sunday April 17

8:00 AM --- *Coffee Klatch*
Philosophy

9:00 AM --- *Seminar*
Philosophy

10:00 AM --- *Presidential Candidate*

11:00 AM --- *Business*
Board Elections

12:00 PM --- *Lunch* - on your own

1:00 PM --- *Presidential Candidate*

2:00 PM --- *Business*
Local Candidate Nominations
Delegate Nominations

3:00 PM --- *Closing Speaker*

4:00 PM --- *New Board Meets*

Coffee Klatch
Nuts & Bolts

Seminar
Nuts & Bolts

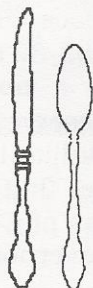
Schedule subject to minor changes



Beef Tournedos Tenderloin
with mushroom sauce, oven roasted
potatoes & vegetables.

Teriyaki Tuna Steak
perfectly grilled tuna with steamed
rice & fresh vegetables.

Vegetarian Fettucini
with sun dried tomatoes & spinach
in a light garlic & wine sauce.



Special Guest Dr. James W. Lark, III

Dr. Lark is a wonderful speaker with a wealth of experience to share. He currently serves as advisor to The Liberty Coalition and its constituent organizations at the University of Virginia. He also advises college and high school libertarians throughout the country on promoting libertarian ideas on campus, and has lectured and conducted workshops on campus organizing at several state Libertarian Party conventions, and at the Libertarian Party national conventions in 1987, 1989, 1991, 1996 and 1998. He served as a member of the Libertarian Party's Success 97 and Success 99 Leadership Seminar faculty.

Dr. Lark currently serves as an at-large member of the Libertarian National Committee, and as the national campus coordinator for the Libertarian Party. He also serves as the vice-chairman of the Libertarian Party of Virginia, the campus coordinator for the L.P.Va., the Ninth Congressional District chair, and the secretary of the Jefferson Area Libertarians (Charlottesville, Virginia). Previously, he served as vice-chairman and secretary of the L.P.Va. and as a member of the Libertarian Party's platform committee in 1991 and 1998. He has served as a national campus liaison for the Libertarian Party, and has conducted three campus organizing tours on behalf of the Party.

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Would you like to host the 2001 Libertarian State Convention?

Bids are now being accepted by the State Board for the 2001 State Convention Committee. Send applications to the office by April 9, 2000. Selection of 2001 convention committee will be made at the close of the 2000 State Convention. Application should include; Estimated duration of convention. General location/city for convention. Tentative schedule with possible highlights. Names of persons to serve as the main convention committee and contact information. Send applications to: Convention Selection Committee 720 East 18 Avenue, #309 Denver, CO 80203

The target audience for this convention is adult. Children in attendance at the convention and/or banquet are to behave in such a manner as not to be a distraction to the speakers or the participants. If you are bringing a small infant, please advise us in advance so that we may seat you at a table where there will be minimum interference for the wait staff and your expedient exit if necessary. Thank you for your cooperation.

LETTERS TO THE LIBERTY

The editorial policy of *Colorado Liberty* is to provide a Libertarian perspective on issues of current interest. Many such issues are controversial, even among Libertarians. The editors of the *Liberty* invite commentary from all sides of such issues. We aim to make the *Liberty* an informative and objective advocate for freedom.

One of the hotter issues facing the legislature this year is same-sex marriage. Several bills to outlaw common law marriage contracts have already been introduced in response to recent court cases in Hawaii and Vermont.

The following letter recently appeared in the *Denver Post*. It is reproduced here with the author's permission.

Dear Editor,

I am a Christian. I am also a Libertarian. (A contradiction? I say the two are inseparable.) Marriage, to me, is a sacred institution. It is the bonding of two individuals – one male, the other female – using God as the cement. The one thing marriage is not and cannot be, by definition, is any kind of relationship involving two men.

I suppose you can use the word *marriage* to describe anything you like. That's done often enough with words like *liberal* and *gay*. But this is the meaning the word holds for me. I am offended by the notion of using the same word to describe the relationship I have with my wife and my God, and the relationship two gay men might have.

Should my personal feelings be the basis for a law? Certainly not. The whole idea behind the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was to keep the federal government from outlawing behavior that one segment of society, particularly the majority, found offensive.

I do not believe it would be right to outlaw homosexuality or the cohabitation of gays. Nor do I believe it would be right for the state to grant permission for gay marriages – not because it would be immoral to recognize them, but because it is immoral for the state to grant permission for any marriage.

When my wife and I got married, I first sought the permission of the state by way of a marriage license. Do you know what

the word "license" means? Now that I have had time to think about it, my blood boils every time I do. What business is it of the state or anyone else who I marry?

If the state were taken completely out of marriage the world would not fall apart. In most of the extremely rare instances where incest might be an issue, cultural taboos – and the threat of ostracization – would suffice to prevent marriage. The plain truth is that there is no good reason for the state to regulate marriage – except for the desire of a few to control the lives of others.

Jay Carper, Thornton

ATTENTION ABORTION PARTISANS!

This issue has drawn so much attention from our readers that the organizers of the upcoming convention have decided to sponsor a special forum on the topic Abortion and Libertarianism.

WE WANT YOU TO PARTICIPATE!

If you haven't yet signed up to attend the convention in April, do it now. And send Bette Rose a note <betterose@aol.com> to let her know that you intend to participate in this exciting forum.

Abortion isn't the only issue pushing people's hot buttons these days. Michael McKinzie's letter lambasting the NRA drew this response, which arrived along with a copy of GOA's latest fundraising appeal.

Dear Editor,

I was reading the *Liberty* this morning and was taken with the article "Compromise Won't Work." I do agree with this 100%, and I also agree that the NRA is guilty of such. But I don't agree that the Libertarians are the only ones trying to get the gun owners' rights back.

Here is the last letter I received from the Gun Owners of America (8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102, Springfield VA 22151; 703-321-8585; www.gunowners.org). It is a **no compromise** organization that deserves to be mentioned in the *Liberty*. Unlike the NRA it has a chapter in Denver that is working hard for the gun owners of Colorado – something our turncoat governor sure is not doing!

Earl Busby, Paonia

"Marriage ... is a sacred institution ... it is immoral for the state to grant permission for any marriage."

Send your letters to *Colorado Liberty* c/o Libertarian Party of Colorado, 720 East 18th Avenue #309, Denver CO 80203. Or send e-mail to <betterose@aol.com>, <davidbryant@att.net>, <rez2word@aol.com>, or <tgoonan@sprintmail.com>. Letters of fewer than 300 words are preferred. If you really want to speak out on an issue that interests you, send us an article instead. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit your submissions as we see fit. But we're reasonable about it.

Letters about the abortion issue continue to pour into our office. Here's one that's considerably more calm and reasonable than most.

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to recent letters concerning the Libertarian Party's stand on abortion. The Libertarian Party should stand by the truth. We believe that each individual can, and should, govern what is under his own hat. To teach that individuals cannot, or should not bother to control themselves is diametrically opposed to Libertarian belief, and to the truth. Personal responsibility is the answer to birth control. This includes the responsibility of parents to teach the truth to their children.

A fetus is a fruit, the result of an act of reproduction. Common sense should tell people that if one takes part in an act of reproduction, one is liable to reproduce. A fetus cannot be made responsible for the acts of, nor for the health of, its parents. The fetus is an innocent party, not the cause of problems. Any problems pre-exist the fetus and are the responsibility of the parents, or of the physician to the parents.

Abortion is a brutal, blood-letting act. One would expect that, after centuries of scientific study, discovery and invention, a civilized individual in this era could come up with a less savage method of birth control, and a more honorable one than dependence on someone else (*ie*, the government) to control his acts.

Ila G. M. Bolton, Dove Creek

Here is a rather heavily edited version of another letter responding to the Paul Scott Williams letter published in November. If you do write to the *Liberty*, please avoid *ad hominem* argument. This is a forum for reasoned debate, and personal attacks are out of bounds.

Dear Editor:

After reading Paul Scott Williams' letter *A Fetus Is A Parasite*, I just had to respond. I don't think I've ever read a more misguided, amoral concept than that put forward by Mr. Williams.

Mr. Williams states that although a fetus is a human being, it is also a parasite and, because the fetus uses nutrients from its mother, the mother should be

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"Common
sense should
tell people
that if one
takes part in
an act of
reproduction,
one is likely
to reproduce."

allowed to kill it. Nowhere does he consider the responsibility of the mother for getting pregnant, much less any moral obligation to protect the most innocent and defenseless of all human beings.

I hope your readers don't allow themselves to be misguided. Such irresponsible concepts are very much opposed to Libertarian ideals and, quite frankly, have no place in any society. There is no argument to be made regarding certain universally self-evident Truths, such as the sanctity of human life. You either believe in the sanctity of human life, or you don't. Period.

Charles Bonnington, Aurora

A State-Wide Strategy

by Ari Armstrong

Let's face it. The Libertarian Party has about as much control over Colorado politics as Hillary Clinton has over Slick Willie's sex drive.

Sure, we have some people in local offices, like Doug Carlsten on the Brighton City Council and Bill Masters as San Miguel County Sheriff. But there's only so much room for libertarian political philosophy in local seats. What good is a libertarian in the position of, say, County Weed Control, as South Dakota boasts?

Will the LP ever move a player into the major leagues? For the Republicrats, local offices are usually place-holders for those with higher aspirations. Certainly many local posts afford the opportunity to cut taxes and regulations and extend the right to bear arms. But to have a significant impact on Colorado politics and to earn a soap-box in the popular press, the LP must elect a member of the state legislature.

In a previous article, I discussed several possible strategies for individual candidates seeking state-level office. But the best possibility of actually electing someone is for the state party to throw its full support behind a single candidate. If the LP could win just one seat in the Colorado legislature, it could then build upon that foundation and eventually gain a respected voice in state-level politics.

The LP would probably have to pick a state representative race rather than a senate race. Of paramount importance is the candidate. Only a smart, eloquent, and – let's face it – attractive candidate has a chance of winning.

Whether the LP picks a three-way race or a two-way race, it's important that the Republican in the race be a squish. Several Republicans in the Colorado legislature have definite libertarian leanings. The LP could never hope to win enough disgruntled Republican votes away from such members. Besides, the attempt would damage the LP's image in the eyes of potential allies.

There are some advantages to running in a two-way race. Republican voters wouldn't fear they were throwing the

election to a Democrat by voting Libertarian. Many moderate Republicans might stay home, giving activist Libertarians the edge. In addition, the LP would likely pick up a few Democratic votes as the only alternative to the GOP. A two-way race against a Democrat might also work.

The main sticking point is abortion. Many gun-toting Republicans are also pro-life. Could a pro-choice Libertarian who strongly supports the right to bear arms win votes from a pro-life Republican with a squishy record on guns? That's a tough call. Of course, there are some pro-choice Republicans and pro-life Libertarians, so that issue might not matter.

Dudley Brown of Rocky Mountain Gun Owners has said he will consider supporting a promising, principled Libertarian candidate against a squishy Republican. Such an endorsement would mean recognition and needed funds. Brown has a few words of advice, however. He says that viable LP candidates cannot have the attitude, "I'm going to win because I'm right." No – if the LP wins, it will be because of tactics.

Not only must a successful LP candidate for a state house seat be willing to put in long hours campaigning door-to-door, but the party must be willing to lend heavy support for multiple professional mailings and quality spin.

It's highly unlikely that any LP candidate will win a state-level office in the foreseeable future. That doesn't mean individual campaigns are a waste of time, however, if the candidate can identify his or her goals in advance. If a candidate runs to win with inadequate resources, the race won't accomplish much. But if a candidate intentionally runs on a wedge issue – either drug legalization or the restoration of the right to bear arms – or conducts a strictly educational campaign, the race will be successful even though another party wins the seat.

At most, only one Libertarian candidate per election cycle can run to win a state-level office, given the current size of the party. The party ought to pick a race carefully, either this year or in 2002, and push with all its might to get one Libertarian into the Colorado legislature.

"to have a significant impact on Colorado politics ... the LP must elect a member of the state legislature."

LIBERTY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY / MARCH, 2000

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 30	31 LPBC Activists Noon. Healthy Habits., Foothills & Baseline. 303-443-9179	Feb 1 Fort Collins Breakfast, 7 am at Joe's Fireside Café, 238 S College Ave. Call Lee Smith: 970-635-0395	2 Broomfield Mamie Doud Library at the Civic Center, 7 pm. Call Wright Morgan: 303-465-9676 Colorado Springs 7 pm, 719-532-0118	3 Jefferson County 6 pm social, 7 pm busi- ness. Call Tom Goonan: 303-202-9069 Adams County, 7 pm Shari's, 511 E 120 th Ave 303-252-7808	4	5 Denver Breakfast 8 am at LePeep's, Colorado Boulevard at Mexico in Denver. Call David Aitken: 303-831-4334
6	7 Boulder Luncheon, noon. 303-443-9179 Southside - 7pm. Location TBA. Call Bennett Rutledge: 303-740-8690	8	9 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. Baron's Saloon at Airport & Academy. Call John Berntson: 719-532-0118	10 Boulder - LPBC Board Meeting, 6:30 pm. Cheng's Chinese, 480 W Dahlia in Louisville. Call Ron Bain: 303-443-9179	11	12 Denver Breakfast LePeep's, 8 am. 303-831-4334 <i>Abraham Lincoln's Birthday - 1809</i>
13	14 Boulder, noon 303-443-9179 Adams County, 7 pm 303-252-7808 LP of CO - in Denver Board meeting, 7 pm. 303-639-5530	15	16 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. 719-532-0118	17	18	19 Denver Breakfast LePeep's, 8 am. 303-831-4334
20	21 Boulder Luncheon, noon 303-443-9179 Fort Collins - 7 pm at the China Dragon, 1401 W Elizabeth. 970-667-7557	22 <i>George Washington's Birthday -- 1732</i>	23 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. 719-532-0118	24	25	26 Denver Breakfast LePeep's, 8 am. 303-831-4334
27	28 Boulder Luncheon, noon. 303-443-9179 Adams County, 7 pm Jade City Cafe, 12010 Melody Drive. Call Jay Carper: 303-252-7808	29	Mar 1 Broomfield Mamie Doud Library at the Civic Center, 7 pm. Call Wright Morgan: 303-465-9676 Colorado Springs 7 pm, 719-532-0118	2 Jefferson County 6 pm social, 7 pm busi- ness. 12895 West 16 th Drive in Golden. Call Tom Goonan: 303-202-9069	3 Adams County 7 pm at Shari's, 511 E 120 th Ave. Call Jay Carper: 303-252-7808	4 Denver Breakfast LePeep's, 8 am. 303-831-4334
5	6 Boulder Luncheon, noon. 303-443-9179	7 Fort Collins Breakfast, 7 am at Joe's Fireside Café, 238 S College Ave. Call Lee Smith: 970-635-0395 <i>Mardi Gras</i>	8 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. Baron's Saloon at Airport & Academy. Call John Berntson: 719-532-0118 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	9 Boulder - LPBC Board Meeting, 6:30 pm. Murphy's Grill at 28 th & Iris in Boulder. Call Ron Bain: 303-443-9179	10	11 Denver Breakfast 8 am. 303-831-4334 Grand Junction 6pm Social, Dinner at 7. Country Inn, 718 Horizon Drive. John Lott will speak. 970-464-5177
12	13 Boulder, noon. 303-443-9179 Adams County, 7pm 303-252-7808 LP of CO - in Denver Board meeting, 7 pm. 303-639-5530	14	15 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. 719-532-0118 <i>Andrew Jackson's Birthday -- 1767</i>	16	17 <i>St Patrick's Day</i>	18 Denver Breakfast LePeep's, 8 am. 303-831-4334

Future
Dates
on the
Liberty
Calendar

April 14, 15, & 16: **State Convention in Denver.** Nomination of candidates and delegates; seminars, guest speakers, banquet & parties. Early registration \$109. Contact Michele Bethke at 303-690-2907. See ad, pages 6 and 7.

June 30 through July 3: **National Convention in Anaheim, California.** For more information call (202) 333-0008, Ext. 227.

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Use this form to begin or extend your unified (National and State) LP membership. Send it to:

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The Federal Election Commission requires the LP to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and employer of each person whose contributions aggregate \$200 or more in a calendar year. The IRS says we must print "contributions are not tax deductible" on all fund-raising appeals. Although we'd like to tell you this is a government mandated notice, the FEC and IRS also say we're not allowed to tell you that!

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I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

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What does the above pledge mean? We ask our members to disavow the initiation of force. This does not mean that you cannot defend yourself; you do have the right to defend your life, liberty, and property. It means that you will not use the coercive power of government to forcibly achieve your personal, ethical, or religious goals. This commitment helps us maintain our principles and provides us with a measuring stick to determine if we have strayed from our common goal: a society where all relationships among persons are based on voluntary cooperation.

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